

Case 3401***Delognatha* Lacordaire, 1859 (Insecta, Coleoptera): proposed conservation**

Patrice Bouchard

Canadian National Collection of Insects, Arachnids and Nematodes, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, 960 Carling Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0C6, Canada (e-mail: bouchardpb@agr.gc.ca)

Ivan Löbl

Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Case Postale 6434, CH-1211, Geneva, Switzerland (e-mail: ivan.loebl@ville-ge.ch)

Abstract. The purpose of this application, under Article 23.9.3 of the Code, is to conserve the name *Delognatha* Lacordaire, 1859 for a tenebrionid genus from the Neotropical Region. This name is a junior homonym of the unused name *Delognatha* Agassiz, 1846. *Delognatha* Lacordaire, 1859 has been used as valid since its description, while *Delognatha* Agassiz, 1846 has not been used as valid after it was established other than by two authors more than 150 years ago. It is proposed to conserve the name *Delognatha* Lacordaire, 1859 by suppression of the name *Delognatha* Agassiz, 1846.

Keywords. Nomenclature; Coleoptera; TENEBRIONIDAE; PHRENAPATINAE; PIMELIINAE; *Delognatha*; *Dailognatha*; darkling beetles; Neotropical Region; Palaeartic Region.

1. Steven (1829, p. 88) proposed the generic name *Dailognatha* for the species *Tentyria aequalis* Tauscher, 1812. Eschscholtz (1831, p. 9) was the second worker to use the name (as *Dailognatha* Steven). Presumably because Steven's paper was little-known by his contemporaries, the genus *Dailognatha* has been attributed to 'Eschscholtz, 1831' or 'Steven in Eschscholtz, 1831' by subsequent authors (Agassiz, 1846a, p. 51; 1846b, p. 116; Sherborn, 1925, p. 1777; Neave, 1939, p. 7; Gebien, 1910, p. 44; 1937, p. 596). *Dailognatha* Steven, 1829, which contains 33 valid species-group names from the Palaeartic Region (Löbl et al., 2008), is currently used as valid and belongs to the tenebrionid subfamily PIMELIINAE.

2. Dejean (1834, p. 200; 1836, p. 221) used the generic name *Delognatha* and included one species, *Delognatha lacordairei* Dejean. Both generic and species names are nomina nuda because neither was described by Dejean and the species name was not made available before the publication of Dejean's catalogues. This genus was listed by Dejean (1834, 1836) near *Phtora* Dejean 1834, another nomen nudum (= *Clamoris* Gozis, 1886), which belongs to the tenebrionid subfamily PHRENAPATINAE.

3. Agassiz (1846b, p. 118) listed *Delognatha* Dejean, 1833 as an emendation of *Dailognatha* Steven in Eschscholtz, 1831 (see Agassiz, 1846b, p. 116), although Dejean's name was not originally proposed as an emendation of *Dailognatha* since

both generic names represent taxa from two different subfamilies of TENEBRIONIDAE. Agassiz was in error when he listed 1833 as the date of Dejean's publication; this catalogue was published between 1833 and 1836, the correct year of publication for the TENEBRIONIDAE section (livraison 3) was 1834 (according to Bousquet, 2004). The unjustified emendation *Delognatha* Agassiz, 1846 was used as the correct spelling for *Dailognatha* by two authors more than 150 years ago (Gistel, 1856, p. 181; 1857, p. 385; Redtenbacher, 1858, p. 578). Sherborn (1925, p. 1832) and Neave (1939, p. 29) listed *Delognatha* Agassiz, 1846 as an emendation of *Dailognatha*.

4. Lacordaire (1859, p. 315) described the genus *Delognatha* for the first time and referred to Dejean's concept of the genus 'Dej. Cat. éd. 2, p. 200'. Lacordaire included two species in this genus, *lacordairei* and *auriculata*, based on unavailable species names previously mentioned in Dejean's catalogues, under *Delognatha* Dejean, 1834 and *Peneta* Dejean, 1836, respectively. The two species originally included in *Delognatha* were described in a footnote (Lacordaire, 1859, p. 316). Lacordaire (1859, p. 315) listed the nomen nudum *Peneta* Dejean, 1836, p. 221 as a junior synonym of *Delognatha* Dejean, 1834. The name *Delognatha* Lacordaire, 1859 has been used as valid since it was first made available in 1859, for a genus that includes nine nominal valid species-group taxa, all of which occur in the Neotropical Region (subfamily PHRENAPATINAE). The name *Delognatha* Lacordaire, 1859 has no junior synonyms.

5. Gebien (1940, p. 756; catalogue, p. 563) designated *Delognatha lacordairei* Lacordaire, 1859 (p. 316) as the type species of *Delognatha* Lacordaire, 1859.

6. The name *Delognatha* Lacordaire, 1859 is a junior homonym of *Delognatha* Agassiz, 1846. As the unjustified emendation *Delognatha* Agassiz has not been used as valid for *Dailognatha* Steven since 1899, it qualifies as a nomen oblitum under Article 23.9.1.1. Although the generic name *Delognatha* Lacordaire, 1859 has been used as valid in the last fifty years (Watt, 1974, p. 412; Doyen, and Lawrence, 1979, p. 355; Costa et al., 1988, p. 216; Doyen et al., 1990, p. 241) the name has not had sufficient usage to allow its 'automatic' conservation under Article 23.9.2. This case is brought to the Commission under the provisions of Article 23.9.3.

7. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to suppress the generic name *Delognatha* Agassiz, 1846 for the purposes of both the Principle of Priority and the Principle of Homonymy;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Delognatha* Lacordaire, 1859 (gender: feminine), type species *Delognatha lacordairei* Lacordaire, 1859 by subsequent designation by Gebien (1940);
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *lacordairei* Lacordaire, 1859, as published in the binomen *Delognatha lacordairei* (specific name of the type species of *Delognatha* Lacordaire, 1859);
- (4) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the name *Delognatha* Agassiz, 1846, as suppressed in (1) above.

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Acknowledgement of receipt of this application was published in BZN **64**: 1.

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